

**Camp Harkness Advisory Committee
Camp Harkness Office
301 Great Neck Road
February 26, 2019
Minutes**

Present: Stan Soby, Vicki Severin, Betsie Danforth, Ron Rasi, Shannon Aiello, Bev Jackson, MaryAnn Langdon, Heather Dierberger

Others Present: Jackie Staller, Cres Secchiaroli, Todd Perkins, John Rogers, John Massicotte, Kacie Ware

1. Call to Order: 10:44 AM

Birthday wishes to Bev. MaryAnn arranged a celebration of Bev's birthday and a thank you for her many years of advocacy for the Camp. Bev has been a long time camper and seen many changes as the Camp has grown.

2. Public Comments: None

3. Additions to Agenda: None

4. Approval of Minutes:

Shannon motioned to accept January 2019 minutes. Betsie seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

5. Correspondence:

Vicki received Insurance binder for MS walk

6. Camp Harkness Fund:

A. Updates

i. Play Group

- April's outreach for Play Group is positive – 11 children and 12 parents attended last meeting
- A grant was received for the Play Group and also music therapy sessions

ii. Activities

- Comedy Night in September
- Summer Fest will be July 27, 2019 – continue to make plans for the event
- Earth Day Cleanup – April 27, 2019, 9AM – 12PM
- Attempts have been made to develop contact with the United Way to have Casinos assist in projects
- Chinese New Year Dance was a success

7. Old Business

A. Camp Report

i. Camp Usage/ Events

- Vicki gave January report
- Jackie is assisting in processing reservations
- April 6th Brain Injury Awareness Run
- Staff is going to Wallingford next week for training on the gate system

ii. Physical Plant

- Compiling a list for volunteer activities
- Interviews have been completed for open position and someone has accepted
- Continued replacement of doors on 6 Yellow Cabins
- 4 roofs replaced on 2 Blue Cabins and 2 Yellow Cabins
- Pre-bid for shelter – bids due March 13th when it will be known what the cost will be
- Paving near Brown Cabins and Garden Area
- Staff training for confined space entry, to be legally shutting off water
- Awning on side of office
- MaryAnn expressed concern for pot holes from Brown Cabins to Harkness Hall – they will be addressed
- Water build up near Beach Road turn still a concern – area needs to be leveled
- Cleaning kitchen – a commercial kitchen inspection/ cleaning scheduled
- CW Agency does a spring cleaning

iii. Other Camp

- Committee continues to develop options to past program
- Need is important in June and August
- Working with Play Group on building a day program

B. DDS Updates:

- Cres reported Governor's proposed budget is favorable to the Department
- Closures during Conversions are minimal
- Outlook is positive
- Team met to develop summer staffing plan (Vicki, Cres, Marty, John, Todd)
- Age out monies for graduates and families is providing good support

C. Advocacy

i. Possible Visit by Governor Lamont

- Stan spoke with the Commissioner about a planned visit by Governor Lamont in July

ii. Potential Advocacy Issues

- MaryAnn suggested the Committee write testimony in support of Camp at Budget Meeting
- Testimony to the impact of banning plastic and using paper straws on the disability community was also emphasized
- Stan will forward information regarding email of testimony

8. New Business

- The Arc will develop a Young Adult Camp
- Oak Hill continues to work on options
- Youth Camp committee will work with Play Group on building a day program

9. Adjournment: 11:45 am

Next Meeting: March 28, 2019 at Camp Harkness

Respectfully submitted by: Shannon Aiello, Secretary